

August 12, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB) and our Board of Directors, I respectfully request your support for the City of Baltimore's TIGER II grant application for the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (Westport Waterfront TOD). The Westport Waterfront TOD will provide multi-modal transportation service - including light rail, highway, pedestrian, bike and road infrastructure - to a currently distressed area of Baltimore City. Ultimately, this project will support the creation of 13,000 new jobs, the development of 2,000 housing units and the rehabilitation of a 50-acre brownfields site that will further improve a Baltimore community in dire need of reinvestment.

The EAGB is a non-profit economic development partnership tasked with attracting capital investment and jobs to the Greater Baltimore Region. Our organization is supported by leaders from government, industry and higher education charged with improving the quality of living for resident citizens and businesses. Your support of this project will enhance our ability to achieve our goal by fostering the redevelopment of this site and the utilization of the adjacent highway and rail infrastructure to create a sustainable community and economic center.

The redevelopment of Baltimore's industrial waterfront has played a key role in changing perceptions of the entire region. High quality, mixed-use development has allowed Baltimore to compete against Mumbai, Tokyo and Shanghai for a new 900 person Morgan Stanley requirement, retain headquarter firms like Legg Mason, Inc. and grown new start-up firms such as Under Armour and Advertising.com (now part of AOL).

Critical to the EAGB mission is the ability to provide high quality locations to attract business investment and highly skilled talent. **We believe that the Westport Waterfront TOD's proximity to defense installations and major university research centers, regional transportation access, and unique waterfront lifestyle and amenities will provide the kind of world-class setting.** Funding Baltimore's TIGER II proposal will create the transportation infrastructure needed to catalyze the Westport Waterfront TOD while laying the foundation for the region's sustainable economic growth going forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Thomas Sadowski", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Thomas Sadowski  
President and CEO

cc: Mr. Jamie Kendrick, Baltimore City Department of Transportation